

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02  
L-03 TRSE-00 /046 W  
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R 311320Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8694  
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA POUCH  
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL POUCH  
AMCONSUL IZMIR POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: TU, ELAB  
SUBJECT: TURK-IS ADVOCATES NEW MINIMUM WAGE

1. SADIK SIDE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS (TURK-IS), HAS ANNOUNCED THAT TURK-IS HAS REQUESTED LABOR MINISTER FEHMI CUMALIOGLU TO CONVENE THE TRIPARTITE MINIMUM WAGE COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH NEW LEVELS IN ACCORDANCE WITH INCREASES IN LIVING COSTS. AS OPPOSED TO THE CURRENT MINIMUM WAGE OF TL60 PER DAY (TL 1,800 PER MONTH) SET IN JUNE 1976, IT WAS STATED THAT RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY THE STATE PLANNING ORGANIZATION (SPO) INDICATES THAT THE MINIMUM WAGE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN THE VICINITY OF TL 110 PER DAY (TL 3,300 PER MONTH).

2. NEWSPAPER REPORTS QUOTE SPO EXPERT TUNCER KOCAMAN AS SAYING THAT "ACCORDING TO PRICE INDEXES THE MINIMUM WAGE SHOULD BE SET AT TL 109 TO 103". A FAMILY OF FIVE, KOCAMAN STATED, NEEDS TO EARN TL 4,800 PER MONTH NET AFTER TAXES AND DEDUCTIONS FOR SOCIAL BENEFITS TO MAINTAIN MINIMUM STANDARDS OF LIVING.

3. THE CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH EMPLOYER ASSOCIATIONS (TISK)  
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HAS INDICATED ITS PREFERENCE TO CONTINUE THE ESTABLISHED TRADITION OF REVIEWING THE MINIMUM WAGE AT TWO-YEAR INTERVALS. TISK ARGUES THAT THE MAJOR PROBLEM FOR TURKEY'S INTERNAL ECONOMY IS TO HALT INFLATION AND ADVOCATES THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL WAGE POLICY WHICH WOULD FIX MAXIMUM WAGES OR AT LEAST PROMOTE SIGNIFICANT WAGE RESTRAINTS AT THE UPPER LEVELS. ONCE THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED, TISK REPRESENTATIVES STATE, THE REVISION OF THE MINIMUM WAGE

WOULD FOLLOW LOGICALLY.

4. COMMENT: IT MAY BE SIGNIFICANT THAT THE TURK-IS SPOKESMAN ON THIS OCCASION IS SECGEN SADIK SIDE, RATHER THAN TURK-IS PRESIDENT HALIL TUNC. SADIK IS THE LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP WITHIN TURK-IS AND IN ESSENCE REPRESENTS THE LABOR FORCES SUPPORTING THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP) OF PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL AND THE COALITION FRONT GOVERNMENT. TUNC, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS FAVORED A COALITION OF THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) AND THE JP AND FOR A TIME ADVOCATED A GENERAL STRIKE AGAINST THE COALITION WHICH INCLUDED THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) AND THE NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP).

5. THE SWITCH IN TURK-IS SPOKESMEN COULD INDICATE A TEMPORARY ECLIPSE IN TUNC'S LEADERSHIP OF TURK-IS. MORE PROBABLY, HOWEVER, SADIK WAS SELECTED TO MAKE THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS BECAUSE WITH HIS POLITICAL COLORATION HE WOULD HAVE A GREATER IMPACT ON THE GOVERNMENT. AT THIS JUNCTURE, THE COALITION MAY FIND IT POLITICALLY EXPEDIENT TO HEED THE CALL OF TURK-IS, DEMONSTRATE ITS CONCERN FOR LABOR AND GARNER SOME MUCH-NEEDED SUPPORT FROM THE SIZEABLE NUMBER OF WORKERS WHO WOULD BE AFFECTED.  
SPIERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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